

Amherst Budget Coordinating Group
Summary Points – April 29, 2010

At our April 29th meeting, the members of the Budget Coordinating Group agreed that the following points would be conveyed to our home boards and committees:

- That we reaffirmed our shared understanding that if State Aid reductions are less than anticipated, the additional revenue would reduce the FY11 tax levy rather than increase spending. We emphasized staying true to the concept that the override amount was based in part on projections of a 4% State Aid cut, and that had we had different information, the override amount would have been less.
- That it is important for all to be aware of the financial and structural implications of potential legislative and local changes affecting School Regionalization.
- That to keep faith with the voters by adhering to the budget sizes and plans on which they based their votes, the BCG representatives agree to recommend to Town Meeting that any amendments to proposed budgets be opposed. While this is not binding on our home committees, we will urge them to support the budgets as presented. Because the BCG is a forum for sharing the community's common interests as expressed by the elected and appointed representatives of the Town, Schools and Libraries, we believe that supporting the budgets as presented is consistent with our message to voters and the collaborative process that brought us to this point.